

(2) an estimate of the total cost or savings to the Department of the Interior as a result of such sales, compared to sales conducted by non-Internet-based bidding;

(3) voluntary and anonymous feedback from persons participating in such sales, on the Internet-based leasing process and potential areas for improvement in such sales; and

(4) an evaluation of the demonstrated or expected effectiveness of different structures for lease sales that may provide an opportunity to better maximize bidder participation, ensure the highest return to the Federal taxpayers, minimize opportunities for fraud or collusion, and ensure the security and integrity of the leasing process.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5577, introduced by Congressman GARRET GRAVES, will increase transparency and efficiency regarding the Federal Government's current process for conducting lease sales while also saving Federal tax dollars in the development of oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), the author of the bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my fourth grader's homework is online. We go up on a Web site and pull down homework. My ninth grader can check out books from the library and download it to his Kindle. Our 6-year-old takes my iPhone and sends text messages, unbeknownst to me, to her aunts and uncles. Everything is now evolving to online—everything is.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that there is this reputation that the Federal Government has that we are incredibly inefficient and behind the times, and unfortunately that reality is well earned. Everything is going online now. We can go on different Web sites and have things delivered to our homes the same day or the next day. We can order things online and go to stores and go pick them up. That is how the world is evolving, and what the online presence does is it provides for transparency.

Now, this bill addresses offshore lease sales. What are offshore lease sales? That is the second largest revenue

stream for the United States Treasury after taxes. It is a huge revenue stream. By some estimates, it has exceeded \$200 billion in revenues for the United States Treasury.

What this bill is designed to do is to bring us into the 21st century, to allow for potential bidders to go online to broaden access, to allow for the taxpayer's resource, the American public's resource, to have more bidders, to have more competition to ultimately make sure that the full value of that resource is realized by taxpayers.

I very much appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL), my good friend, being our lead cosponsor on this bill, showing that this is a bipartisan bill, that we have strong support from very diverse ideologies across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate the fact that this simply puts it online. It simply allows for better access for information. This is an asset that belongs to the American public. It is worth billions and billions of dollars. It should have transparency in how the process takes place, in the amount that bidders put forth, the amount that bidders bid for different auctions or lease sales. I think it is very important.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I also want to make note of this. What this does, this whole transparency and openness and improved value and competition, it complements the public process because, Mr. Speaker, related to this last lease sale, lease sale 248, there were 18 opportunities for public participation, public comment, public meetings, 18 separate opportunities through the development of the lease sale, the development of the EIS, the development of the 5-year plan. So this complements all of that transparency and doesn't allow this to be done only by folks who can afford to go buy a plane ticket and go down into this facility, but that everyone can participate; and it allows for that public access to this last stage in the process that complements this very open and transparent process that takes place prior to.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to urge support for H.R. 5577. I think this is in the best interest of taxpayers. This is in the best interest of transparency and, certainly, the public.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 5577 is a bipartisan bill, introduced by two of my colleagues on the Committee on Natural Resources, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), and the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL). It really would bring the offshore oil and gas leasing system into the 21st century.

Last month the Department of the Interior took one step in that direction by streaming the opening of leasing bids live on the Web. However, companies still submitted their bids by sticking them in an envelope and mailing them. This bill would direct Interior to start moving that process online and to provide much more transparency by

ensuring that the public has access to all the data from these sales in machine-readable and downloadable format.

H.R. 5577 will also ensure that people across the country can follow these sales in real time. I commend the sponsor of this bill for their efforts to improve government operations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge passage of this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5577, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD), the whole number of the House is 432.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE MARK TAKAI, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 841

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable Mark Takai, a Representative from the State of Hawaii.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.